

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims, including amended and new claims are as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A process for manufacturing a laminated glazing unit having at least two panes forming a composite with an inside and an outside, a first coated pane being provided on a surface facing the inside of the composite with a corrosion-protected transparent surface coating and at least one adhesive layer for coupling the panes together, the process comprising:

removing the transparent surface coating proximate at least one edge of the coated pane to expose a create an exposed region between about 0.1 mm and about 5 mm from a peripheral edge of the pane along a main surface of the pane;

applying a an opaque protective layer proximate the peripheral edge of the coated pane after removal of the transparent surface coating therefrom, the protective layer being substantially impermeable to diffusion of water vapor and covering at least a portion of the exposed region of the coated pane and an external boundary edge of the transparent surface coating extending across a portion of the transparent surface coating beyond an edge thereof proximate the peripheral edge of the pane;

coupling the panes together with an adhesive layer disposed therebetween to form the laminated glazing unit.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the transparent surface coating is removed along the edge of the coated pane by abrasion.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the surface coating is removed by abrasion substantially simultaneously with a grinding treatment for grinding the peripheral edge.

4. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 1, wherein the protective layer covering the external boundary edge of the transparent surface coating is an organic coating.

5. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the protective layer covering the external boundary edge of the transparent surface coating is a bakable ceramic paint.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5, wherein the protective layer covers substantially the entire main surface of the coated pane provided with the transparent surface coating.

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 5, wherein the protective layer covering the ~~external boundary~~ edge of the transparent surface coating is in the form of a pane.

8. (Currently amended) The process of claim 7, wherein the protective layer covering the ~~external boundary~~ edge of the transparent surface coating is opaque and decorative.

9. (Original) The process of claim 5, further comprising baking the ceramic paint, wherein at least one of the panes including the coated pane is formed of glass.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein at least one of the panes comprises curved glass formed by bending, the curved glass being provided with the transparent surface coating prior to bending.

11. (Currently amended) A laminated glazing unit comprising at least two panes coupled together by an adhesive layer disposed therebetween to form a composite with an inside and an outside, a first coated pane provided on a surface facing the inside of the composite with a transparent surface coating, the transparent surface coating being ~~removed~~ ~~immediate~~ ~~spaced~~ ~~from~~ at least one edge of the main surface of the coated pane ~~in a region by a distance~~ between about 0.1 mm and about 5 mm ~~from a peripheral edge of the pane along a~~ ~~surface of the pane~~, and a transition region extending between coated and uncoated regions of the main surface of the pane being covered with a protective layer impermeable to diffusion of water vapor.

12. (Original) The laminated glazing unit of claim 11, wherein the protective layer is disposed at an angle of between about 180° and about 190° in the transition region extending between coated and uncoated regions of the main surface.

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13. (Original) The laminated glazing unit of claim 11, wherein the protective layer is a bakable paint.

14. (Original) The laminated glazing unit of claim 13, wherein the bakable paint is electrically conducting.

15. (Original) The laminated glazing unit of claim 11, wherein the transparent surface coating comprises at least one of silver and an antireflection dielectric.

16. (Original) The laminated glazing unit of claim 11, wherein the transparent surface coating comprises a silver layer abutting an antireflection dielectric layer.

17. (Original) The laminated glazing unit of claim 11, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a synthetic thermoplastic.

18. (Currently amended) A process for manufacturing a laminated glazing unit having at least two panes forming a composite with an inside and an outside, the process comprising:

applying a transparent surface coating to a first pane along substantially an entire main surface facing the inside of the composite;

removing the transparent surface coating proximate at least one peripheral edge of the first pane to ~~expose~~ create an exposed region of the main surface of the pane;

applying a ceramic protective coating proximate the peripheral edge of the first pane after removal of the transparent surface coating therefrom, the protective coating being substantially impermeable to diffusion of water vapor and covering at least a portion of the exposed main surface region of the first pane and a boundary edge of the transparent surface coating extending across a portion of the transparent surface coating beyond an edge thereof proximate the at least one peripheral edge of the pane;

bonding the panes together to form the laminated glazing unit.

19. (Original) The process of claim 18, wherein the panes are adhesively bonded together under at least one of heat and pressure.

20. (Original) The process of claim 18, further comprising bending at least one pane.

21. (New) A laminated glazing unit comprising:
a pair of glass panes, each of the panes having a ground peripheral edge;
a transparent surface coating;
an opaque protective layer substantially impermeable to diffusion of water vapor; and
an adhesive layer.

wherein the protective layer covers at least a portion of a main surface of one of the panes and extends across a portion of the transparent surface coating beyond an edge thereof proximate an edge of the pane; and

wherein (1) the transparent surface coating is disposed between the opaque protective layer and one of the glass panes, (2) the opaque protective layer is disposed between the adhesive layer and the transparent surface coating, and (3) the transparent surface coating, opaque protective layer, and adhesive layer are disposed between the glass panes.

22. (New) A process for manufacturing a laminated glazing unit from a pair of glass panes, the process comprising:

grinding a peripheral edge on each of the glass panes;
disposing a transparent surface coating, a ceramic protective layer, and an adhesive layer between the glass panes, with (1) the transparent surface coating disposed between the opaque protective layer and one of the glass panes and (2) the opaque protective layer disposed between the adhesive layer and the transparent surface coating;

covering at least a portion of a main surface of one of the glass panes with the protective layer, with the protective layer also extending across a portion of the transparent surface coating beyond an edge thereof proximate the peripheral edge of the glass pane.

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